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OCT 04 2001
PATENT & TRADEMARK

Attorney Docket No. DDR 5455 (1417B P 316)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Prior U.S. Patent Application of
Arnold C. Bilstad, et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED
COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE
STERILE FIELD

Prior Application No.: 09/294,964

Prior Application Filed: April 20, 1999

Examiner: I. Soubra

Group Art Unit: 1744

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO CPA

BOX CPA
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with the attached CPA Request in accordance with MPEP § 714 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d)(4). Accordingly, the below amendments relate to the prior application as it existed prior to the filing of this CPA Request and no new matter is being added. A Petition for Three Months Extension of Time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136 with a check in the amount of \$920.00 is also enclosed, making the date of the attached CPA Request due on or before October 10, 2001. Therefore, the CPA Request and this Preliminary Amendment are timely filed.

Note, this "Preliminary Amendment" is being submitted in the form required under the amended rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, a sheet containing the marked-up claims corresponding to the substituted claims set forth below, is attached hereto.

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